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and I believe that the English language has so far best fulfilled all the requirements.

One reason why, according to Mr. Strauss, neither English nor any other living language ought to be selected for international use is the fact that "they are continually changing and coining new words, strange phrases, etc., which every foreigner would have to be continually learning." I reply that if Esperanto or any artificial language would become a real true international language it would just as much continually change and add new words. If it did not it would not serve its purpose. The introduction of new ideas, new views, new aspirations, etc., require new terms, and if such modifications were excluded from an artificial language it would never hold its own against a truly living speech.

#### AUTHOR'S REJOINDER.

With regard to your reply I take exception only to the last paragraph, wherein you imply that I made the statement that an artificial language would not need new words from time to time. I certainly think that it does need additions to keep up with the progress of the world. But while in natural languages these new words are coined either by the inventors of new "things," or by popular usage, in an artificial language it would be done scientifically to fit into the structure of that language. And I expressly stated in my article not that in an artificial language the introduction of new words and other modifications would be excluded, but that it "would adopt only such new words as would from time to time be officially promulgated by whatever central authority would exist for this purpose."

#### AN EXPLANATION.\*

*To the Editor of The Monist:*

Permit me to rectify an error, or rather give an explanation, with reference to my articles on "The Third Movement of the Earth" which appeared together in the July *Monist*.

On page 401, lines 4 and 5, it is said that observations have assigned to the movement of the third rotation a velocity of 48" a century, which causes the rotation to be accomplished in 2,700,000 years.

\* Translated from a personal letter of M. Beziau.

Then on the last line on page 404 we read that the movement is 46" and the rotation is accomplished in 2,800,000 years.

Here is a contradiction which would puzzle your readers and I owe you an explanation.

The number 48" is the result of my personal calculations, and 46" is that given by the *Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes* at Paris. The two computations differ by the insignificant amount of 2". When I speak of my personal work I use my own figures. Under other circumstances I purposely employ the figures which have been scientifically approved.

Moreover, I was formerly in agreement with the Bureau of Longitude who then indicated 48", but the Bureau has changed its computations and now gives a velocity of 46".

If I had thought that the two contradictory figures would be used side by side, I would have made them consistent.

PIERRE BEZIAU.

PARIS, FRANCE.

### "THE THIRD MOVEMENT OF THE EARTH."

*To the Editor of The Monist:*

The article appearing in *The Monist* of July, 1908, under the above quoted head, by Pierre Beziau is interesting from a certain standpoint and ingenious; but the author is handicapped in not being familiar with the mathematics of astronomy, and, we may add, with descriptive astronomy. If the matter had been as simple as M. Beziau seems to think, the labors of La Place, Le Verrier, Adams, and a host of other mathematical astronomers would have been rendered useless. The law of gravitation (which is that every particle in the universe attracts every other particle with a force varying directly as the sum of the masses of the two particles and inversely as the square of their distances apart) is the proximate cause of a wonderful complexity in the motions of the heavenly bodies. It has required the combined energy, skill, and genius of mathematicians extending over three centuries or more of time to reduce the apparent irregularities of motions of the heavenly bodies to regularity. The most refractory of all has been our nearest neighbor, the moon. She has up to the present moment successfully defied them all. She has yet a small irregularity which is a bone of contention among astronomers. Some say this irregularity is accounted for by the slight retardation of the earth's rotation on her